## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An information handling system, comprising:

a host bus adapter coupled to a bus and disposed in a housing; and

an information storage system, coupled to said host bus adapter and disposed in said housing, said information storage system comprising a backplane for coupling at least one information storage device to said host bus adapter.

2. An information handling system as claimed in claim 1, said host bus adapter having a first port for coupling with said information storage system disposed in said housing and a second port for coupling with an information storage system disposed outside of said housing.

3. An information handling system as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising:

the housing in which the host bus adapter is disposed.

4. An information handling system as claimed in Claim 3, further comprising:

a processor disposed in said housing and a memory device for storing a program of instructions executable by said processor;

the bus disposed in said housing, said processor and said memory being coupled to said bus.

5. An information handling system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a digital signal processor coupled to the bus.

6. An information handling system as claimed in claim 1, said host bus adapter and said information storage system being in compliance with a Fibre Channel standard.

7. An information handling system as claimed in claim 1, said at least one information storage device comprising at least two information storage devices in a loop configuration.

8. An information handling system as claimed in claim 1, said at least one information storage device comprising at least two information storage devices in a point-to-point configuration.

9. An information handling system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a slave processor coupled to the bus.

10. An information handling system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a microprocessor coupled to the bus.

11. An information handling system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said host bus adapter comprises a redundant array of independent disks (RAID) controller.

12. An information handling system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a coprocessor coupled to the bus.

13. An information handling system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said host bus adapter comprises a Peripheral Component Interconnect to Fibre Channel (PCI-to-FC) host adapter.

14. An information handling system, comprising:

means for housing the information handling system;

means, disposed in said housing means, for executing a program of instructions, and means for storing the program of instructions executable by said executing means;

means, disposed in said housing means, for transferring information in the information handling system, said executing means and said program-storing means being coupled to said information transferring means;

means, coupled to said information transferring means and disposed in said housing means, for coupling at least two peripheral devices to the information handling system; and

means for storing information, coupled to said coupling means and disposed in said housing means, said information storing means comprising means for interconnecting at least one information storage medium to said coupling means.

15. An information handling system as claimed in claim 14, said information transferring means having a first means for channeling information between said information transferring means and said information storing means disposed in said housing means, and a second means for channeling information between said information transferring means and means for storing information disposed outside of said housing means.

16. An information handling system as claimed in claim 14, said information transferring means and said information storing means being in compliance with a Fibre Channel standard.

17. An information handling system as claimed in claim 14, said at least one information storage medium comprising at least two information storage media in a loop configuration.

18. An information handling system as claimed in claim 14, said at least one information storage medium comprising at least two information storage media in a point-to-point configuration.

19. A method for interfacing with an information storage system, comprising:

transmitting a signal from a host information handling system to be received by the information storage system;

determining whether the information storage system is internal to the host information handling system; and

in the event a determination is made that the information storage system is internal to the host information handling system, determining a configuration of the information storage system.

20. A method as claimed in claim 19, further comprising in the event a determination is made that the information storage system is in a loop configuration, sending the signal to an intended storage device of the information storage system by retransmitting the signal from a first storage device to a succeeding storage device until the information reaches the intended storage device.

21. A method as claimed in claim 19, further comprising in the event a determination is made that the information storage system is not in a loop configuration, sending the signal to an intended storage device of the information storage system by transmitting the signal directly to the intended storage device.

22. A method as claimed in claim 19, further comprising the step of, in the event a determination is made that the information storage system is not internal to the host information handling system, sending the signal to an intended storage device by communicating with the external information storage system.

23. A method as claimed in claim 19, further comprising the steps of, in the event a determination is made that the information storage system is in a loop configuration, determining whether a storage device is in a bypass mode, in the event it is determined that the storage device is in a bypass mode, bypassing the storage device in the bypass mode, and otherwise sending the signal to the intended storage device.

24. A method as claimed in claim 19, further comprising the steps of, transmitting a signal from a storage device of the information storage system to be received by the host information handling system, if necessary, determining whether the information storage system is in a loop configuration, in the event a determination is made that the information storage system is in a loop configuration, sending the signal to the host information handling system by retransmitting the signal from a first storage device to a succeeding storage device until the information reaches the host information handling system, and, in the event a determination is made that the information storage system is not in a loop configuration, sending the signal to the host information handling system by transmitting the signal directly to the host information handling system.

25. A method as claimed in claim 24, further comprising the steps of, in the event a determination is made that the information storage system is in a loop configuration, determining whether a storage device is in a bypass mode, in the event it is determined that the storage device is in a bypass mode, bypassing the storage device in the bypass mode, and otherwise sending the signal to the host information handling system.

26. A program of instructions storable on a medium readable by an information handling system for causing the information handling system to execute steps for interfacing with an information storage system, the steps comprising:

transmitting a signal from a host information handling system to be received by the information storage system;

determining whether the information storage system is internal to the host information handling system; and

in the event a determination is made that the information storage system is internal to the host information handling system, determining a configuration of the information storage system.

27. A program of instructions as claimed in claim 26, further comprising in the event a determination is made that the information storage system is not internal to the host information handling system, sending the signal to an intended storage device by communicating with the external information storage system.

28. A program of instructions as claimed in claim 26, further comprising in the event a determination is made that the information storage system is in a loop configuration, sending the signal to an intended storage device of the information storage system by retransmitting the signal from a first storage device to a succeeding storage device until the information reaches the intended storage device.

29. A program of instructions as claimed in claim 26, further comprising in the event a determination is made that the information storage system is not in a loop configuration, sending the signal to an intended storage device of the information

storage system by transmitting the signal directly to the intended storage device.

30. A program of instructions as claimed in claim 26, the steps further comprising the step of, in the event a determination is made that the information storage system is not internal to the host information handling system, sending the signal to an intended storage device by communicating with the external information storage system.

31. A program of instructions as claimed in claim 26, the steps further comprising the steps of, in the event a determination is made that the information storage system is in a loop configuration, determining whether a storage device is in a bypass mode, in the event it is determined that the storage device is in a bypass mode, bypassing the storage device in the bypass mode, and otherwise sending the signal to the intended storage device.

32. A program of instructions as claimed in claim 26, the steps further comprising the steps of, transmitting a signal from a storage device of the information storage system to be received by the host information handling system, if necessary, determining whether the information storage system is in a loop configuration, in the event a determination is made that the information storage system is in a loop configuration, sending the signal to the host information handling system by retransmitting the signal from a first storage device to a succeeding storage device until the information reaches the host information handling system, and, in the event a determination is made that the information storage system is not in a loop configuration, sending the signal to the host information handling system by transmitting the signal directly to the host information handling system.

33. A program of instructions as claimed in claim 32, the steps further comprising the steps of, in the event a determination is made that the information storage system is in a loop configuration, determining whether a storage device is in a bypass mode, in the event it is determined that the storage device is in a bypass mode, bypassing the storage device in the bypass mode, and otherwise sending the signal to the host information handling system.